

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. By this Amendment claim 5 is amended.

It is appreciatively acknowledged that the Examiner indicated claims 1-4 and 10-23 were allowed. In light of the comments set forth below and the amendments to the pending claims in this application, it is believed that the remaining claims are also allowable over the references cited by the Examiner. Care has been taken to avoid introducing new matter in this Amendment.

Abstract

The abstract is amended solely to comply with the 150 word limit pursuant 37 CFR 1.72(b).

Detailed Specification

The amendments to the specification are either for the correction of typographical errors or describe features originally and clearly disclosed in the drawings. It is believed that no new matter is thereby introduced.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for lack of description in the specification. With the amendments to the Detailed Specification, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nyseth et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,915,562 (Nyseth).

Claim 5 has been amended to specify that the through-slots are located some distance inward from the periphery and that there is a gap between each cover periphery and the door enclosure to facilitate the cleaning and drying of the latching mechanisms. Nyseth does not teach these features. Hence, Nyseth anticipates neither claim 5 as amended, nor claim 6 which depends from claim 5.

In summary, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Detailed Action provides that claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim base. As the independent and intervening claims from which these dependent claims are drawn have been respectfully traversed, Applicant submits that claims 7-9 are in a condition for allowance.

In summary, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 7-9 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 5 and 7 are amended as described below. No new matter is introduced.

Reference indicators 203.1, 204.1, 203.2, 204.2, 203.3 and 204.3 have been added to reflect the discussion in the Detailed Specification.

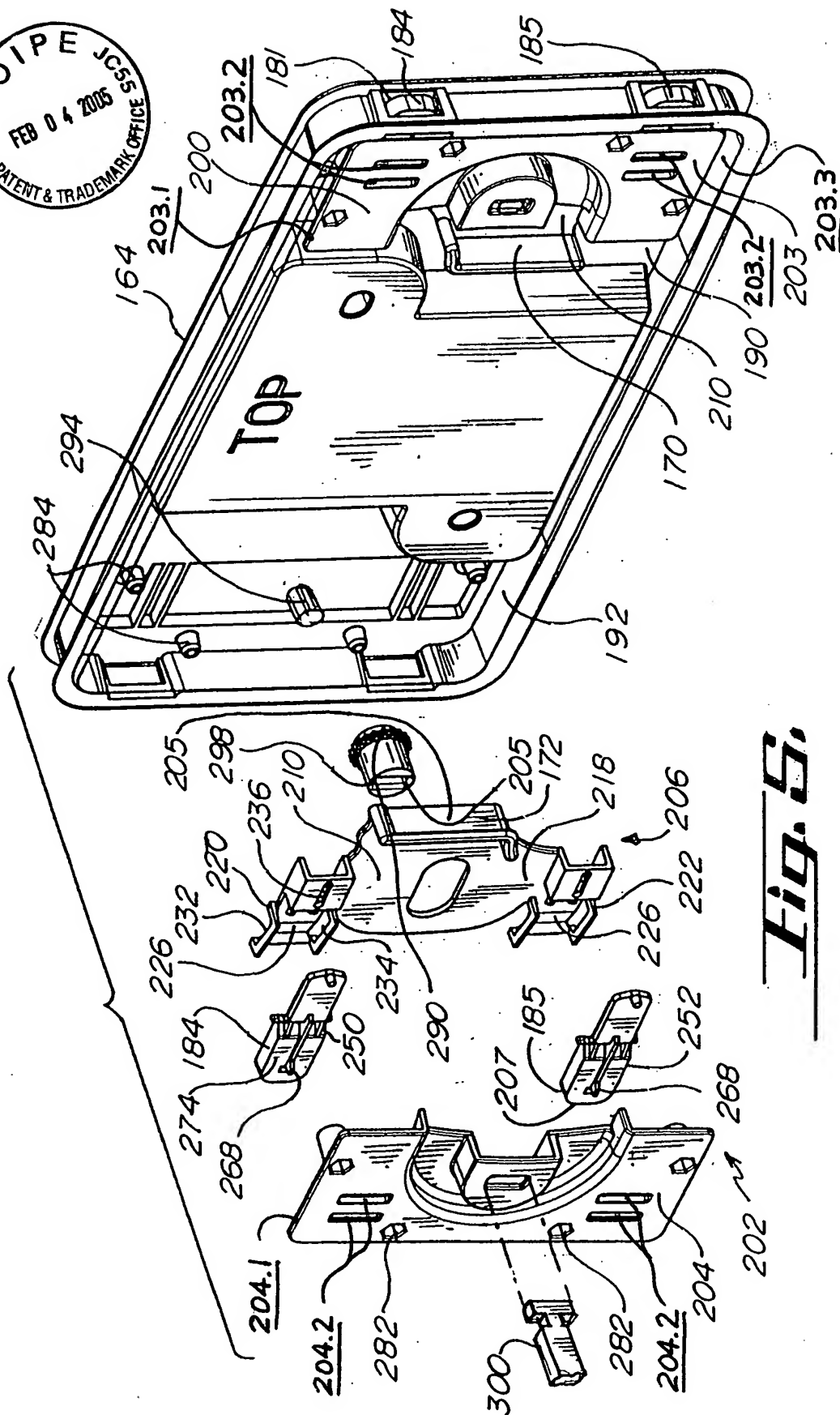


Fig. 5.

O I P E J C 5 5
F E B 0 4 2 0 0 5
P A T E N T & T R A D E M A R K O F F I C E

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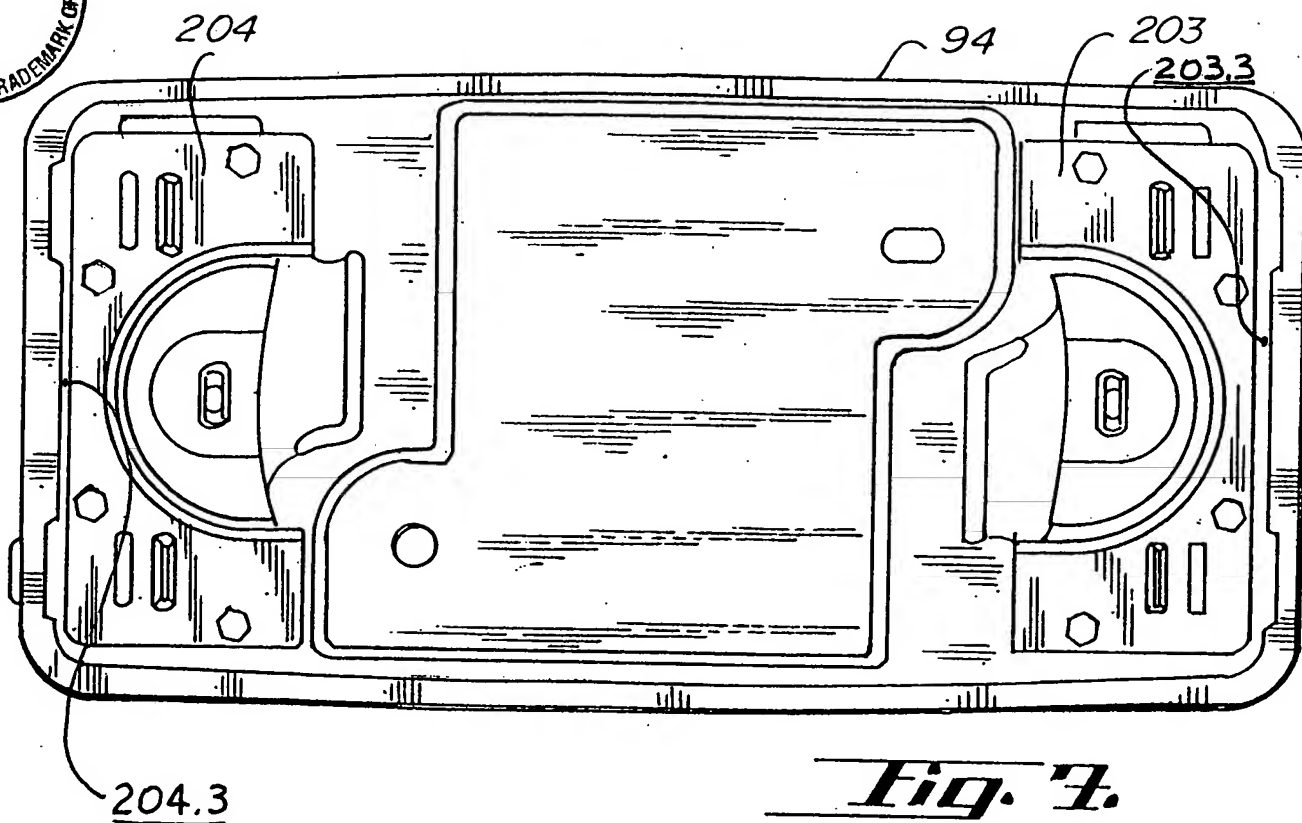


Fig. 7.